



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending April 24, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 25, 2005, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Much of the Commonwealth experienced warm, sunny weather this past week before cooler temperatures brought precipitation by week's end. Dry conditions are of concern in many areas, although the coming week's forecast looks to quench moisture needs in much of the state. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work this past week. Principal farm activities included plowing, disking and chiseling, caring for livestock, spreading stockpiled manure, spreading lime, repairing fences, machinery repairs, planting oats, corn, and potatoes, seeding alfalfa, spraying fruit, and planting assorted vegetable crops.

### **PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 24, 2005**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	21	66	13

**Crops:** Farmers continued to plant oats well ahead of pace as 78 percent of this year's crop is now planted. Historically, Pennsylvania has about 44 percent of the oat crop planted by this time of year. Nineteen percent of oats have emerged, only slightly ahead of historic trends. Oat conditions improved from last week as 79 percent of what has emerged is rated as either good or excellent. Fifteen percent of barley is headed compared with 12 percent historically. Spring plowing is also well ahead of schedule for this time of year and is now 67 percent complete. Fifteen percent of corn has been planted, slightly above last year. Twenty-six percent of potatoes have been planted, while the 5-year average is only 9 percent. Ninety percent of tobacco has been planted, right on track with last year and the 5-year average. Winter

wheat appears to be in good shape as it was rated with the following conditions for the week: 1 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Alfalfa is estimated to be 4 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Ninety-three percent of peaches are now in pink stage and 33 percent are in full bloom. Ninety-one percent of cherries are now in pink stage and 21 percent are in full bloom. Also, 63 percent of apples are in pink stage. All fruit crops are ahead of historic averages for this time of year.

**Livestock:** Farmers are rotating animals from field to field throughout the state. Pasture conditions were rated as 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. This is relatively unchanged from last week.

**U.S. As of April 17, 2005:** Highlights: Temperatures were mild across most of the Nation, particularly in the Corn Belt. Along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, however, below-normal temperatures prevailed. Corn: Growers had planted 14 percent of their acreage, 4 percentage points behind last year but 4 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Eight percent of the crop was headed, compared with 10 percent last year and 9 percent for the 5-year average. Small Grains: Barley planting, at 19 percent complete, was 12 points behind last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Oat growers had planted 55 percent of their acreage, compared with 57 percent last year and 46 percent for the 5-year average. Planting progressed rapidly in the Ohio Valley, advancing 38 points in Ohio and 35 points in Pennsylvania. Planting was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States, except Minnesota.

# Weather Data For Week Ending April 24, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 24, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	75	34	53	6	1.52	4	3.17	0.57	9	70	54	210
Franklin	79	32	53	6	1.27	3	2.97	0.16	7	61	45	242
Meadville	79	31	53	7	1.34	3	2.45	-0.19	7	77	68	258
Mercer	80	24	51	3	1.31	4	3.63	0.91	7	42	27	209
Springboro	80	30	51	4	1.55	3	3.49	0.97	7	42	23	182
Warren	81	32	53	7	1.47	3	3.46	0.65	8	54	44	229
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	77	29	50	6	1.13	3	2.09	-0.58	7	30	26	165
Emporium	81	29	52	8	0.99	3	1.87	-0.83	6	52	46	219
Kane	78	27	49	6	0.91	3	2.57	-0.31	7	20	16	155
Laporte	78	30	51	4	1.71	3	4.70	2.13	8	48	25	190
Lock Haven	85	34	55	6	0.63	3	2.38	-0.04	5	80	55	266
Port Allegany	79	30	50	5	0.80	3	1.82	-0.67	7	34	27	173
Renovo	83	34	54	6	0.56	4	1.83	-0.59	7	78	53	269
Ridgway	78	27	50	6	0.75	3	2.10	-0.60	6	29	23	188
Stevenson Dam	82	31	53	8	0.77	3	2.05	-0.65	7	67	61	256
Towanda	81	31	53	5	1.33	3	4.39	2.11	7	49	27	208
Wellsboro	80	28	51	7	0.74	3	2.84	1.02	8	47	41	179
Williamsport	84	33	56	6	1.15	2	4.37	1.80	5	96	54	289
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	80	28	51	5	1.78	3	5.32	2.61	7	34	26	176
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	35	58	8	0.69	2	3.84	1.53	6	102	75	293
Susquehanna	80	29	53	8	1.26	3	4.23	1.38	7	45	38	199
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	78	32	54	5	1.31	3	3.08	0.55	7	79	54	282
New Castle	81	32	54	6	1.69	4	4.16	1.76	8	83	69	282
Slippery Rock	80	32	55	8	1.26	4	3.78	1.30	8	84	73	290
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	79	34	56	5	0.26	1	0.63	-1.88	4	98	60	286
DuBois	77	31	55	7	1.00	4	2.18	-0.46	9	82	69	269
Lewistown	84	34	56	5	0.76	3	2.20	-0.09	6	97	47	296
Middletown	83	40	59	7	1.13	3	4.48	1.96	6	141	78	358
Prince Gallitzi	79	27	52	5	0.86	3	1.93	-1.43	6	46	32	213
Selinsgrove	84	33	55	5	1.17	2	4.45	1.93	6	73	37	262
State College	80	35	56	7	0.45	3	1.33	-0.98	7	100	75	297
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	84	36	58	7	1.54	2	5.95	3.20	7	107	65	317
Lehighton	84	33	55	5	1.28	2	6.25	3.72	6	78	42	274
Matamoras	83	31	54	5	0.80	3	4.55	1.43	8	55	28	222
Tobyhanna	83	34	55	11	1.18	3	4.70	1.49	7	69	64	256
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	32	59	9	1.00	3	1.96	-0.54	6	170	132	384
Derry	79	32	56	8	1.22	3	2.91	0.34	7	92	75	297
Myersdale	74	26	51	3	0.92	2	1.72	-1.40	6	36	14	194
Mount Pleasant	78	31	56	9	0.78	5	1.18	-2.10	8	90	78	294
Pittsburgh Intl	78	32	57	7	1.53	5	2.53	0.04	9	144	99	354
Rector	78	32	55	9	1.11	4	2.31	-0.97	8	85	73	286
Waynesburg	80	31	55	6	1.12	4	1.88	-0.87	7	90	59	295
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	83	37	58	6	0.87	2	3.18	0.54	7	112	49	320
Everett	80	27	53	3	0.78	3	1.60	-1.01	6	48	18	216
Hanover	84	37	58	5	1.18	3	3.46	0.82	6	109	46	311
Shippensburg	85	37	58	5	0.59	3	2.29	-0.28	7	113	47	314
South Mountain	84	38	58	8	0.93	4	3.56	1.05	7	107	72	317
York	84	34	59	6	0.94	2	3.37	0.50	6	124	60	330
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	85	38	58	7	1.74	2	6.67	3.75	7	98	61	304
Hamburg	86	37	58	9	1.24	2	4.53	1.57	6	117	94	324
Hopewell	85	38	58	4	0.95	2	4.35	1.43	7	100	33	308
Lancaster	82	40	58	7	0.96	2	3.56	0.85	5	120	75	333
Neshaminy Falls	85	29	56	5	0.12	2	3.75	0.60	7	76	32	264
New Holland	83	39	59	7	1.21	2	3.95	1.24	6	126	81	338
Philadelphia	86	43	61	8	0.37	2	4.04	1.16	6	151	79	381
Philadelphia NE	86	40	61	7	0.23	2	3.73	0.85	5	145	73	369
Reading	84	39	59	9	1.08	2	4.50	1.50	6	128	93	346
Valley Forge Na	89	29	57	4	2.00	1	6.72	3.80	5	97	30	293
Willow Grove	84	41	60	9	0.52	2	4.52	1.37	6	128	84	343

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney (FSA)** - - Peaches, plums, apricots, and tart and sweet cherries are in bloom. Apple blossoms are progressing and should be out for the apple blossom festival at the beginning of May. Additional oats and alfalfa have been seeded due to good field conditions this week. More tillage has been completed in preparation of planting corn and soybeans. Some producers have started to plant corn, but others are hesitant due to soil temperatures. The forecast is calling for rain most of the weekend, which will be welcomed because the soil is very dry.

**BERKS COUNTY, Mena Hautau (EXT)** - - Most activities included manure hauling, liming, fertilizing, and some tillage. Some sweet corn was planted.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - - The week started out beautifully but ended with thundershowers turning to snow showers. Again, snow is on the ground but a lot of field work was done early in the week. A good percent of the oats was planted, and seedings were done, especially on the CREP fields and several fields were plowed in preparation of corn and potato planting. The grasses are getting greener, but still not much growth. Supplies are being ordered at the local ag stores.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - - Another good week for field work. We need some spring showers to get things growing.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - - Last week tillage was the main activity. Not much planting has begun.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - - The weather changed this week; back to wet and cool, slowing field work to a minimum. Most farmers are making repairs and spreading stockpiled manure.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tim Mussmon (AgChoice)** - - First part of the week was excellent for field work. Wet conditions prevailed later in the week through the weekend. The hay crop is looking good and rye is nearing heading stage. Crop planting is slow.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H Craig (EXT)** - - Excellent week for field work. Soil moisture levels were very low until rain on Saturday. Areas in Upper Dauphin County received a very welcomed 1 inch of rain on Saturday. Timothy mites increasing in severity. No alfalfa weevil injury to note. Corn planting is progressing but no corn has emerged.

**ERIE COUNTY, Nancy L Lewis (FSA)** - - Warm, windy conditions permitted producers to finish up planting their oats. Rain and cooler temperatures are expected later in the week.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - - Farmers are spreading stored manure and repairing fences. Many acres of oats and new seedings planted the past two weeks.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - - Dust is flying in the fields of Franklin County. Topsoil is dry with no rain in the past two weeks; however, moisture is sufficient to start germination. Much corn and alfalfa was seeded this past week, and field work has been the main activity. Peaches, cherries, and all stone fruits are in full bloom or near full bloom. Apples are just in the pink stage. Most of the fruit has survived the winter well and no yield loss is anticipated at this time.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS)** - - Good field work Monday through Friday; activities included spreading manure, spraying wheat, spreading lime, cutting rye, and planting alfalfa and corn.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - - Another dry week for field work until Friday. Even the wettest spots of the fields were fit to work this week. Much manure was hauled, fertilizer and lime spread, oats and grass planted, but very little corn planted. Saturday afternoon we had 3 inches of rain in a short period of time and caused a good deal of erosion in the freshly worked ground.

**PERRY COUNTY, Jeremiah J Trout (AgChoice)** - - Planting will begin in full force when the fields are again suitable. Wet weather has lingered for the past 4 days. The rain was welcomed, as the fields were dry. Producers are ahead of tillage work as compared to past years.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - - Dry field conditions allowed plowing, corn planting, potato planting, spreading fertilizer, hauling manure, and tree planting to be the order of the week. Growers were pleased to see rainfall this weekend as conditions were getting too dry. Cool temperatures have fruit growers on edge as many trees are in bloom.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - - A very good week with plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures during the early part of the week. However, by the end of the week, temperatures cooled down significantly with rain on Saturday. Nearly 8/10 of an inch of much needed rainfall on Saturday. The newly seeded crops will benefit from the recent rainfall. Wheat, barley, and alfalfa are growing very nicely. The main activities for the week were plowing, spreading fertilizer and manure, planting corn, and seeding alfalfa and oats.

**SOMERSET COUNTY, Ken Soldano** - - It's unusually early to have as much work done as we do.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS)** - - The warm conditions last week had the coffee shops buzzing with the words planting corn until the word snow hit the forecast. Major activities were manure spreading, fertilizer spreading, spring plowing and grass seedings.

**WARREN COUNTY, Augusta Durlin** - - We worked on reclaiming part of a pasture for a field this week and fixing fence. We did spring cleaning around the farm towards the end of the week. Finally, it started to rain. Maybe now we can be lifted from the ban. The cows are doing okay. Getting ready for heifers to freshen in June.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - - The rain this week was a welcome change to the dry weather as topsoil moisture was beginning to get low.

**WESTMORELAND, John Lohr (FSA)** - - With dry conditions early in the week, producers made excellent progress with all aspects of their field work. Finally some much-needed rain arrived on Friday. Now some of the early-planted corn, soybeans, and sweet corn will have to survive the next five days or so of cold and wet conditions.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 24, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	67	55	45
Corn, planted	15	7	5
Barley, heading or headed	15	7	12
Oats, planted	78	52	44
Oats, emerged	19	14	17
Tobacco beds, planted	90	94	92
Potatoes, planted	26	11	9
Peaches, in pink	93	90	65
Peaches, in full bloom or past	33	0	0
Cherries, in pink	91	86	61
Cherries, in full bloom or past	21	0	0

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 24, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	16	68	15
Oats	0	2	19	65	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	4	23	64	9
Timothy clover stand	0	1	31	58	10
Pasture	3	8	30	46	13

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Pennsylvania Statistical Office  
2301 N Cameron St Room G-19  
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